NARRATIVE

OF THE

DEATH

OF

CAPTAIN JAMES COOK.

TO WHICH ARE ADDED SOME

PARTICULARS

OF THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

AND

OBSERVATIONS

RESPECTING THE

INTRODUCTION

OF THE

VENEREAL DISEASE

INTO THE

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

By DAVID SAMWELL,

SURGEON OF THE DISCOVERY.

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PREFACE.

TO thoſe who have peruſed the account of the laſt voyage to the Pacific Ocean, the following ſheets may, at firſt ſight, appear ſuperfluous. The author, however, being of opinion, that the event of Captain Cook's death has not yet been ſo explicitly related as the importance of it required, truſts that this Narrative will not be found altogether a repetition of what is already known. At the ſame time, he wiſhes to add his humble teſtimony to the merit of the account given of this tranſaction by Captain King. Its brevity alone can afford an excuſe for this publication, the object of which is to give a more particular relation of that unfortunate affair, which he finds is in general but imperfectly underſtood. He thinks himſelf warranted in ſaying this, from having frequently obſerved, that the public opinion ſeemed to attribute the loſs of Captain Cook's life, in ſome meaſure, to raſhneſs or too much confidence on his ſide; whereas nothing can be more ill-founded or unjuſt. It is, therefore, a duty which his friends owe to his character, to have the whole affair candidly and fully related, whatever facts it may involve, that may appear of a diſagreeable nature to indi-

viduals. The author is confident, that if Captain King could have foreſeen, that any wrong opinion reſpecting Captain Cook, would have been the conſequence of omitting ſome circumſtances relative to his death; the good-natured motive that induced him to be ſilent, would not have ſtood a moment in competition with the ſuperior call of juſtice to the memory of his friend. This publication, he is ſatisfied, would not have been diſapproved of by Captain King, for whoſe memory he has the higheſt eſteem, and to whoſe friendſhip he is under many obligations. He is ſanguine enough to believe, that it will ſerve to remove a ſuppoſition, in this ſingle inſtance, injurious to the memory of Captain Cook, who was no leſs diſtinguiſhed for his caution and prudence, than for his eminent abilities and undaunted reſolution.

The late appearance of this Narrative has been owing to the peculiar ſituation of the writer, whoſe domeſtic reſidence is at a great diſtance from the metropolis, and whoſe duty frequently calls him from home for ſeveral months together. He has the pleaſure of adding, that, in publiſhing the following account of Captain Cook's death, he acts in concurrence with the opinion of ſome very reſpectable perſons.

NARRA-

S. S. Banks 1786.

NARRATIVE

OF THE

DEATH

OF

CAPTAIN COOK.

IN the month of January, 1779, the Reſolution and Diſcovery lay about a fortnight at anchor in the bay of Kerag,e,goo,ah *, in the Iſland of Ou,why,ee. During that time, the ſhips were moſt plentifully ſupplied with proviſions by the natives, with whom we lived on the moſt friendly terms. We were univerſally treated by them with kind attention and hoſpitality; but the reſpect they paid to Captain Cook, was little ſhort of adoration. It was, therefore, with ſentiments of the moſt perfect good-will

* I take it for granted, that moſt of thoſe into whoſe hands theſe pages may fall, have peruſed Captain Cook's laſt Voyage, and therefore, I have all along mentioned the names of the principal actors in this account, as people with whom they are already acquainted. But as I differ ſo much in the orthography of the language of the Sandwich Iſlands from that uſed in the printed Voyage, it becomes neceſſary for me to explain the names I uſe in this narrative, by thoſe already known. It may appear ſtrange, how we ſhould differ ſo much; but ſo it is:—which is the moſt accurate, ſome future viſiter may determine.

Karakakooa	I call	Ke,rag,e,goo,ah,
Terreeoboo	——	Kariopoo,
Kowrowa	——	Kavaroah,
Kaneecabareea	——	Kaneekapo,herei,
Maiha i..aiha	——	Ka,mea,mea.

towards the inhabitants, that we left the harbour, on the fourth of February. It was Captain Cook's intention to viſit the other iſlands to leeward, and we ſtood to the weſtward, towards Mowee, attended by ſeveral canoes full of people, who were willing to accompany us as far as they could, before they bad us a final adieu.

On the ſixth, we were overtaken by a gale of wind; and the next night, the Reſolution had the misfortune of ſpringing the head of her foremaſt, in ſuch a dangerous manner, that Captain Cook was obliged to return to Keragegooah, in order to have it repaired; for we could find no other convenient harbour on the iſland. The ſame gale had occaſioned much diſtreſs among ſome canoes, that had paid us a viſit from the ſhore. One of them, with two men and a child on board, was picked up by the Reſolution, and reſcued from deſtruction: the men, having toiled hard all night, in attempting to reach the land, were ſo much exhauſted, that they could hardly mount the ſhip's ſide. When they got upon the quarter-deck, they burſt into tears, and ſeemed much affected with the dangerous ſituation from which they had eſcaped; but the little child appeared lively and cheerful. One of the Reſolution's boats was alſo ſo fortunate as to ſave a man and two women, whoſe canoe had been upſet by the violence of the waves. They were brought on board, and, with the others, partook of the kindneſs and humanity of Captain Cook.

On the morning of Wedneſday, the tenth, we were within a few miles of the harbour; and were ſoon joined by ſeveral canoes, in which appeared many of our old acquaintance, who ſeemed to have come to welcome us back.

back. Among them was Coo,aha, a prieſt: he had brought a ſmall pig, and ſome cocoa nuts in his hand, which, after having chaunted a few ſentences, he preſented to Captain Clerke. He then left us, and haſtened on board the Reſolution, to perform the ſame friendly ceremony before Captain Cook. Having but light winds all that day, we could not gain the harbour. In the afternoon, a chief of the firſt rank, and nearly related to Kariopoo, paid us a viſit on board the Diſcovery. His name was Ka,mea,mea: he was dreſſed in a very rich feathered cloke, which he ſeemed to have brought for ſale, but would part with it for nothing except iron daggers. Theſe, the chiefs, ſome time before our departure, had preferred to every other article; for having received a plentiful ſupply of hatchets and other tools, they began to collect a ſtore of warlike inſtruments. Kameamea procured nine daggers for his cloke, and being pleaſed with his reception, he and his attendants ſlept on board that night.

In the morning of the eleventh of February, the ſhips anchored again in Keragegooah bay, and preparation was immediately made for landing the Reſolution's foremaſt. We were viſited but by few of the Indians, becauſe there were but few in the bay. On our departure, thoſe belonging to other parts, had repaired to their ſeveral habitations, and were again to collect from various quarters, before we could expect to be ſurrounded by ſuch multitudes as we had once ſeen in that harbour. In the afternoon, I walked about a mile into the country, to viſit an Indian friend, who had, a few days before, come near twenty miles, in a ſmall canoe, to ſee me, while the ſhip lay becalmed.

As the canoe had not left us long before a gale of wind came on, I was alarmed for the conſequence: however, I had the pleaſure to find that my friend had eſcaped unhurt, though not without ſome difficulties. I take notice of this ſhort excurſion, merely becauſe it afforded me an opportunity of obſerving, that there appeared no change in the diſpoſition or behaviour of the inhabitants. I ſaw nothing that could induce me to think, that they were diſpleaſed with our return, or jealous of the intention of our ſecond viſit. On the contrary, that abundant good nature which had always characteriſed them, ſeemed ſtill to glow in every boſom, and to animate every countenance.

The next day, February the twelfth, the ſhips were put under a taboo, by the chiefs, a ſolemnity, it ſeems, that was requiſite to be obſerved before Kariopoo, the king, paid his firſt viſit to captain Cook, after his return. He waited upon him the ſame day, on board the Reſolution, attended by a large train, ſome of which bore the preſents deſigned for Captain Cook, who received him in his uſual friendly manner, and gave him ſeveral articles in return. This amicable ceremony being ſettled, the taboo was diſſolved, matters went on in the uſual train, and the next day, February the thirteenth, we were viſited by the natives in great numbers; the Reſolution's maſt was landed, and the aſtronomical obſervatories erected on their former ſituation. I landed, with another gentleman, at the town of Kavaroah, where we found a great number of canoes, juſt arrived from different parts of the iſland, and the Indians buſy in conſtructing temporary huts on the beach, for their reſidence during the ſtay of the ſhips. On our return on board the Diſcovery, we learned, that an Indian had

had been detected in ſtealing the armourer's tongs from the forge, for which he received a pretty ſevere flogging, and was ſent out of the ſhip. Notwithſtanding the example made of this man, in the afternoon another had the audacity to ſnatch the tongs and a chizel from the ſame place, with which he jumped overboard, and ſwam for the ſhore. The maſter and a midſhipman were inſtantly diſpatched after him, in the ſmall cutter. The Indian ſeeing himſelf purſued, made for a canoe; his countrymen took him on board, and paddled as ſwift as they could towards the ſhore; we fired ſeveral muſkets at them, but to no effect, for they ſoon got out of the reach of our ſhot. Pareah, one of the chiefs, who was at that time on board the Diſcovery, underſtanding what had happened, immediately went aſhore, promiſing to bring back the ſtolen goods. Our boat was ſo far diſtanced, in chaſing the canoe which had taken the thief on board, that he had time to make his eſcape into the country. Captain Cook, who was then on ſhore, endeavoured to intercept his landing; but, it ſeems, that he was led out of the way by ſome of the natives, who had officiouſly intruded themſelves as guides. As the maſter was approaching near the landing-place, he was met by ſome of the Indians in a canoe: they had brought back the tongs and chizel, together with another article, that we had not miſſed, which happened to be the lid of the water-caſk. Having recovered theſe things, he was returning on board, when he was met by the Reſolution's pinnace, with five men in her, who, without any orders, had come from the obſervatories to his aſſiſtance. Being thus unexpectedly reinforced, he thought himſelf ſtrong enough to inſiſt upon having the thief, or the

canoe

canoe which took him in, delivered up as reprizals. With that view he turned back; and having found the canoe on the beach, he was preparing to launch it into the water, when Pareah made his appearance, and inſiſted upon his not taking it away, as it was his property. The officer not regarding him, the chief ſeized upon him, pinioned his arms behind, and held him by the hair of his head; on which, one of the ſailors ſtruck him with an oar: Pareah inſtantly quitted the officer, ſnatched the oar out of the man's hand, and ſnapped it in two acroſs his knee. At length, the multitude began to attack our people with ſtones. They made ſome reſiſtance, but were ſoon overpowered, and obliged to ſwim for ſafety to the ſmall cutter, which lay farther out than the pinnace. The officers, not being expert ſwimmers, retreated to a ſmall rock in the water, where they were cloſely purſued by the Indians. One man darted a broken oar at the maſter; but his foot ſlipping at the time, he miſſed him, which fortunately ſaved that officer's life. At laſt, Pareah interfered, and put an end to their violence. The Gentlemen, knowing that his preſence was their only defence againſt the fury of the natives, entreated him to ſtay with them, till they could get off in the boats; but that he refuſed, and left them. The maſter went to ſeek aſſiſtance from the party at the obſervatories; but the midſhipman choſe to remain in the pinnace. He was very rudely treated by the mob, who plundered the boat of every thing that was looſe on board, and then began to knock her to pieces, for the ſake of the iron-work; but Pareah fortunately returned in time to prevent her deſtruction. He had met the other gentleman on his way to the obſervatories, and ſuſpecting

his

his errand, had forced him to return. He diſperſed the crowd again, and deſired the gentlemen to return on board: they repreſented, that all the oars had been taken out of the boat; on which he brought ſome of them back, and the gentlemen were glad to get off, without farther moleſtation. They had not proceeded far, before they were overtaken by Pareah, in a canoe: he delivered the midſhipman's cap, which had been taken from him in the ſcuffle, joined noſes with them, in token of reconciliation, and was anxious to know, if Captain Cook would kill him for what had happened. They aſſured him of the contrary, and made ſigns of friendſhip to him in return. He then left them, and paddled over to the town of Kavaroah, and that was the laſt time we ever ſaw him. Captain Cook returned on board ſoon after, much diſpleaſed with the whole of this diſagreeable buſineſs; and the ſame night, ſent a lieutenant on board the Diſcovery, to learn the particulars of it, at it had originated in that ſhip.

It was remarkable, that in the midſt of the hurry and confuſion attending this affair, Kanynah (a chief who had always been on terms particularly friendly with us) came from the ſpot where it happened, with a hog to ſell on board the Diſcovery: it was of an extraordinary large ſize, and he demanded for it a pahowa, or dagger, of an unuſual length. He pointed to us, that it muſt be as long as his arm. Captain Clerke not having one of that length, told him, he would get one made for him by the morning; with which being ſatisfied, he left the hog, and went aſhore without making any ſtay with us. It will not be altogether foreign to the ſubject, to mention a circumſtance, that happened to-day on board the Reſolution.

An Indian chief aſked Captain Cook at his table, if he was a *Tata Toa*; which means a fighting man, or a ſoldier. Being anſwered in the affirmative, he deſired to ſee his wounds: Captain Cook held out his right-hand, which had a ſcar upon it, dividing the thumb from the finger, the whole length of the metacarpal bones. The Indian, being thus convinced of his being a Toa, put the ſame queſtion to another gentleman preſent, but he happened to have none of thoſe diſtinguiſhing marks: the chief then ſaid, that he himſelf was a Toa, and ſhewed the ſcars of ſome wounds he had received in battle. Thoſe who were on duty at the obſervatories, were diſturbed during the night, with ſhrill and melancholy ſounds, iſſuing from the adjacent villages, which they took to be the lamentations of the women. Perhaps the quarrel between us, might have filled their minds with apprehenſions for the ſafety of their huſbands: but, be that as it may, their mournful cries ſtruck the ſentinels with unuſual awe and terror.

To widen the breach between us, ſome of the Indians, in the night, took away the Diſcovery's large cutter, which lay ſwamped at the buoy of one of her anchors: they had carried her off ſo quietly, that we did not miſs her till the morning, Sunday, February the fourteenth. Captain Clerke loſt no time in waiting upon Captain Cook, to acquaint him with the accident: he returned on board, with orders for the launch and ſmall cutter to go, under the command of the ſecond lieutenant, and lie off the eaſt point of the bay, in order to intercept all canoes that might attempt to get out; and, if he found it neceſſary, to fire upon them. At the ſame time, the third lieutenant of the Reſolution, with the launch and ſmall cutter, was ſent on the

the ſame ſervice, to the oppoſite point of the bay; and the maſter was diſpatched in the large cutter, in purſuit of a double canoe, already under ſail, making the beſt of her way out of the harbour. He ſoon came up with her, and by firing a few muſkets, drove her on ſhore, and the Indians left her: this happened to be the canoe of Omea, a man who bore the title of Orono. He was on board himſelf, and it would have been fortunate, if our people had ſecured him, for his perſon was held as ſacred as that of the king. During this time, Captain Cook was preparing to go aſhore himſelf, at the town of Kavaroah, in order to ſecure the perſon of Kariopoo, before he ſhould have time to withdraw himſelf to another part of the iſland, out of our reach. This appeared the moſt effectual ſtep that could be taken on the preſent occaſion, for the recovery of the boat. It was the meaſure he had invariably purſued, in ſimilar caſes, at other iſlands in theſe ſeas, and it had always been attended with the deſired ſucceſs: in fact, it would be difficult to point out any other mode of proceeding on theſe emergencies, likely to attain the object in view. We had reaſon to ſuppoſe, that the king and his attendants had fled when the alarm was firſt given: in that caſe, it was Captain Cook's intention to ſecure the large canoes which were hauled up on the beach. He left the ſhip about ſeven o'clock, attended by the lieutenant of marines, a ſerjeant, corporal, and ſeven private men: the pinnace's crew were alſo armed, and under the command of Mr. Roberts. As they rowed towards the ſhore, Captain Cook ordered the launch to leave her ſtation at the weſt point of the bay, in order to aſſiſt his own boat. This is a circumſtance worthy of notice; for it clearly ſhews,

that he was not unapprehenſive of meeting with reſiſtance from the natives, or unmindful of the neceſſary preparation for the ſafety of himſelf and his people. I will venture to ſay, that from the appearance of things juſt at that time, there was not one, beſide himſelf, who judged that ſuch precaution was abſolutely requiſite: ſo little did his conduct on the occaſion, bear the marks of raſhneſs, or a precipitate ſelf-confidence! He landed, with the marines, at the upper end of the town of Kavaroah: the Indians immediately flocked round, as uſual, and ſhewed him the cuſtomary marks of reſpect, by proſtrating themſelves before him. There were no ſigns of hoſtilities, or much alarm among them. Captain Cook, however, did not ſeem willing to truſt to appearances; but was particularly attentive to the diſpoſition of the marines, and to have them kept clear of the crowd. He firſt enquired for the king's ſons, two youths who were much attached to him, and generally his companions on board. Meſſengers being ſent for them, they ſoon came to him, and informing him that their father was aſleep, at a houſe not far from them, he accompanied them thither, and took the marines along with them. As he paſſed along, the natives every where proſtrated themſelves before him, and ſeemed to have loſt no part of that reſpect they had always ſhewn to his perſon. He was joined by ſeveral chiefs, among whom was Kanynah, and his brother Koohowrooah. They kept the crowd in order, according to their uſual cuſtom; and being ignorant of his intention in coming on ſhore, frequently aſked him, if he wanted any hogs, or other proviſions: he told them that he did not, and that his buſineſs was to ſee the king. When he arrived at the houſe, he ordered ſome of the

the Indians to go in, and inform Kariopoo, that he waited without to ſpeak with him. They came out two or three times, and inſtead of returning any anſwer from the king, preſented ſome pieces of red cloth to him, which made Captain Cook ſuſpect that he was not in the houſe; he therefore deſired the lieutenant of marines to go in. The lieutenant found the old man juſt awaked from ſleep, and ſeemingly alarmed at the meſſage; but he came out without heſitation. Captain Cook took him by the hand, and in a friendly manner, aſked him to go on board, to which he very readily conſented. Thus far matters appeared in a favourable train, and the natives did not ſeem much alarmed or apprehenſive of hoſtility on our ſide; at which Captain Cook expreſſed himſelf a little ſurprized, ſaying, that as the inhabitants of that town appeared innocent of ſtealing the cutter, he ſhould not moleſt them, but that he muſt get the king on board. Kariopoo ſat down before his door, and was ſurrounded by a great crowd: Kanynah and his brother were both very active in keeping order among them. In a little time, however, the Indians were obſerved arming themſelves with long ſpears, clubs, and daggers, and putting on thick mats, which they uſe as armour. This hoſtile appearance increaſed, and became more alarming, on the arrival of two men in a canoe from the oppoſite ſide of the bay, with the news of a chief, called Kareemoo, having been killed by one of the Diſcovery's boats, in their paſſage acroſs: they had alſo delivered this account to each of the ſhips. Upon that information, the women, who were ſitting upon the beach at their breakfaſts, and converſing familiarly with our people in the boats, retired, and a confuſed murmur ſpread

through the crowd. An old prieſt came to Captain Cook, with a cocoa nut in his hand, which he held out to him as a preſent, at the ſame time ſinging very loud. He was often deſired to be ſilent, but in vain: he continued importunate and troubleſome, and there was no ſuch thing as getting rid of him or his noiſe: it ſeemed, as if he meant to divert their attention from his countrymen, who were growing more tumultuous, and arming themſelves in every quarter. Captain Cook, being at the ſame time ſurrounded by a great crowd, thought his ſituation rather hazardous: he therefore ordered the lieutenant of marines to march his ſmall party to the water-ſide, where the boats lay within a few yards of the ſhore: the Indians readily made a lane for them to paſs, and did not offer to interrupt them. The diſtance they had to go might be about fifty or ſixty yards; Captain Cook followed, having hold of Kariopoo's hand, who accompanied him very willingly: he was attended by his wife, two ſons, and ſeveral chiefs. The troubleſome old prieſt followed, making the ſame ſavage noiſe. Keowa, the younger ſon, went directly into the pinnace, expecting his father to follow; but juſt as he arrived at the water-ſide, his wife threw her arms about his neck, and, with the aſſiſtance of two chiefs forced him to ſit down by the ſide of a double canoe. Captain Cook expoſtulated with them, but to no purpoſe: they would not ſuffer the king to proceed, telling him, that he would be put to death if he went on board the ſhip. Kariopoo, whoſe conduct ſeemed entirely reſigned to the will of others, hung down his head, and appeared much diſtreſſed.

While

While the king was in this ſituation, a chief, well known to us, of the name of Coho, was obſerved lurking near, with an iron dagger, partly concealed under his cloke, ſeemingly, with the intention of ſtabbing Captain Cook, or the lieutenant of marines. The latter propoſed to fire at him, but Captain Cook would not permit it. Coho cloſing upon them, obliged the officer to ſtrike him with his piece, which made him retire. Another Indian laid hold of the ſerjeant's muſket, and endeavoured to wrench it from him, but was prevented by the lieutenant's making a blow at him. Captain Cook, ſeeing the tumult increaſe, and the Indians growing more daring and reſolute, obſerved, that if he were to take the king off by force, he could not do it without ſacrificing the lives of many of his people. He then pauſed a little, and was on the point of giving his orders to reimbark, when a man threw a ſtone at him; which he returned with a diſcharge of ſmall ſhot, (with which one barrel of his double piece was loaded). The man, having a thick mat before him, received little or no hurt: he brandiſhed his ſpear, and threatened to dart it at Captain Cook, who being ſtill unwilling to take away his life, inſtead of firing with ball, knocked him down with his muſket. He expoſtulated ſtrongly with the moſt forward of the crowd, upon their turbulent behaviour. He had given up all thoughts of getting the king on board, as it appeared impracticable; and his care was then only to act on the defenſive, and to ſecure a ſafe embarkation for his ſmall party, which was cloſely preſſed by a body of ſeveral thouſand people. Keowa, the king's ſon, who was in the pinnace, being alarmed on hearing the firſt firing, was, at his own entreaty, put on ſhore again; for

even

even at that time, Mr. Roberts, who commanded her, did not apprehend that Captain Cook's perſon was in any danger: otherwiſe he would have detained the prince, which, no doubt, would have been a great check on the Indians. One man was obſerved, behind a double canoe, in the action of darting his ſpear at Captain Cook, who was forced to fire at him in his own defence, but happened to kill another cloſe to him, equally forward in the tumult: the ſerjeant obſerving that he had miſſed the man he aimed at, received orders to fire at him, which he did, and killed him. By this time, the impetuoſity of the Indians was ſomewhat repreſſed; they fell back in a body, and ſeemed ſtaggered: but being puſhed on by thoſe behind, they returned to the charge, and poured a volley of ſtones among the marines, who, without waiting for orders, returned it with a general diſcharge of muſketry, which was inſtantly followed by a fire from the boats. At this Captain Cook was heard to expreſs his aſtoniſhment: he waved his hand to the boats, called to them to ceaſe firing, and to come nearer in to receive the marines. Mr. Roberts immediately brought the pinnace as cloſe to the ſhore as he could, without grounding, notwithſtanding the ſhowers of ſtones that fell among the people: but Mr. John Williamſon, the lieutenant, who commanded in the launch, inſtead of pulling in to the aſſiſtance of Captain Cook, withdrew his boat further off, at the moment that every thing ſeems to have depended upon the timely exertions of thoſe in the boats. By his own account, he miſtook the ſignal: but be that as it may, this circumſtance appears to me, to have decided the fatal turn of the affair, and to have removed every chance which remained

with Captain Cook, of eſcaping with his life. The buſineſs of ſaving the marines out of the water, in conſequence of that, fell altogether upon the pinnace; which thereby became ſo much crowded, that the crew were, in a great meaſure, prevented from uſing their fire-arms, or giving what aſſiſtance they otherwiſe might have done, to Captain Cook; ſo that he ſeems, at the moſt critical point of time, to have wanted the aſſiſtance of both boats, owing to the removal of the launch. For notwithſtanding that they kept up a fire on the crowd from the ſituation to which they removed in that boat, the fatal confuſion which enſued on her being withdrawn, to ſay the leaſt of it, muſt have prevented the full effect, that the prompt co-operation of the two boats, according to Captain Cook's orders, muſt have had, towards the preſervation of himſelf and his people. At that time, it was to the boats alone, that Captain Cook had to look for his ſafety; for when the marines had fired, the Indians ruſhed among them, and forced them into the water, where four of them were killed: their lieutenant was wounded, but fortunately eſcaped, and was taken up by the pinnace. Captain Cook was then the only one remaining on the rock: he was obſerved making for the pinnace, holding his left-hand againſt the back of his head, to guard it from the ſtones, and carrying his muſket under the other arm. An Indian was ſeen following him, but with caution and timidity; for he ſtopped once or twice, as if undetermined to proceed. At laſt he advanced upon him unawares, and with a large club*, or

* I have heard one of the gentlemen who were preſent ſay, that the firſt injury he received was from a dagger, as it is repreſented in the Voyage; but, from the account

or common ſtake, gave him a blow on the back of the head, and then precipitately retreated. The ſtroke ſeemed to have ſtunned Captain Cook: he ſtaggered a few paces, then fell on his hand and one knee, and dropped his muſket. As he was riſing, and before he could recover his feet, another Indian ſtabbed him in the back of the neck with an iron dagger. He then fell into a bite of water about knee deep, where others crowded upon him, and endeavoured to keep him under: but ſtruggling very ſtrongly with them, he got his head up, and caſting his look towards the pinnace, ſeemed to ſolicit aſſiſtance. Though the boat was not above five or ſix yards diſtant from him, yet from the crowded and confuſed ſtate of the crew, it ſeems, it was not in their power to ſave him. The Indians got him under again, but in deeper water: he was, however, able to get his head up once more, and being almoſt ſpent in the ſtruggle, he naturally turned to the rock, and was endeavouring to ſupport himſelf by it, when a ſavage gave him a blow with a club, and he was ſeen alive no more. They hauled him up lifeleſs on the rocks, where they ſeemed to take a ſavage pleaſure in uſing every barbarity to his dead body, ſnatching the daggers out of each other's hands, to have the horrid ſatisfaction of piercing the fallen victim of their barbarous rage.

count of many others, who were alſo eye-witneſſes, I am confident, in ſaying, that he was firſt ſtruck with a club. I was afterwards confirmed in this, by Kaireekea, the prieſt, who particularly mentioned the name of the man who gave him the blow, as well as that of the chief who afterwards ſtruck him with the dagger. This is a point not worth diſputing about: I mention it, as being ſolicitous to be accurate in this account, even in circumſtances, of themſelves, not very material.

I need

I need make no reflection on the great loſs we ſuffered on this occaſion, or attempt to deſcribe what we felt. It is enough to ſay, that no man was ever more beloved or admired: and it is truly painful to reflect, that he ſeems to have fallen a ſacrifice merely for want of being properly ſupported; a fate, ſingularly to be lamented, as having fallen to his lot, who had ever been conſpicuous for his care of thoſe under his command, and who ſeemed, to the laſt, to pay as much attention to their preſervation, as to that of his own life.

If any thing could have added to the ſhame and indignation univerſally felt on the occaſion, it was to find, that his remains had been deſerted, and left expoſed on the beach, although they might have been brought off. It appears, from the information of four or five midſhipmen, who arrived on the ſpot at the concluſion of the fatal buſineſs, that the beach was then almoſt entirely deſerted by the Indians, who at length had given way to the fire of the boats, and diſperſed through the town: ſo that there ſeemed no great obſtacle to prevent the recovery of Captain Cook's body; but the lieutenant returned on board without making the attempt. It is unneceſſary to dwell longer on this painful ſubject, and to relate the complaints and cenſures that fell on the conduct of the lieutenant. It will be ſufficient to obſerve, that they were ſo loud, as to oblige Captain Clerke publickly to notice them, and to take the depoſitions of his accuſers down in writing. The Captain's bad ſtate of health and approaching diſſolution, it is ſuppoſed, induced him to deſtroy theſe papers a ſhort time before his death.

It is a painful taſk, to be obliged to notice circumſtances, which ſeem to reflect upon the character of any man. A ſtrict regard to truth, however, compelled me to the inſertion of theſe facts, which I have offered merely as facts, without preſuming to connect with them any comment of my own: eſteeming it the part of a faithful hiſtorian, "to "extenuate nothing, nor ſet down ought in malice."

The fatal accident happened at eight o'clock in the morning, about an hour after Captain Cook landed. It did not ſeem, that the king, or his ſons, were witneſſes to it; but it is ſuppoſed that they withdrew in the midſt of the tumult. The principal actors were the other chiefs, many of them the king's relations and attendants: the man who ſtabbed him with the dagger was called Nooāh. I happened to be the only one who recollected his perſon, from having on a former occaſion mentioned his name in the journal I kept. I was induced to take particular notice of him, more from his perſonal appearance than any other conſideration, though he was of high rank, and a near relation of the king: he was ſtout and tall, with a fierce look and demeanour, and one who united in his figure the two qualities of ſtrength and agility, in a greater degree, than ever I remembered to have ſeen before in any other man. His age might be about thirty, and by the white ſcurf on his ſkin, and his ſore eyes, he appeared to be a hard drinker of Kava. He was a conſtant companion of the king, with whom I firſt ſaw him, when he paid a viſit to Captain Clerke. The chief who firſt ſtruck Captain Cook with the club, was called Karimano, craha, but I did not know him by his name. Theſe circumſtances I learnt of honeſt Kaireekea, the prieſt; who added, that they

they were both held in great eſteem on account of that action: neither of them came near us afterwards. When the boats left the ſhore, the Indians carried away the dead body of Captain Cook and thoſe of the marines, to the riſing ground, at the back of the town, where we could plainly ſee them with our glaſſes from the ſhips.

This moſt melancholy accident, appears to have been altogether unexpected and unforeſeen, as well on the part of the natives as ourſelves. I never ſaw ſufficient reaſon to induce me to believe, that there was any thing of deſign, or a pre-concerted plan on their ſide, or that they purpoſely ſought to quarrel with us: thieving, which gave riſe to the whole, they were equally guilty of, in our firſt and ſecond viſits. It was the cauſe of every miſunderſtanding that happened between us: their petty thefts were generally overlooked, but ſometimes ſlightly puniſhed: the boat, which they at laſt ventured to take away, was an object of no ſmall magnitude to people in our ſituation, who could not poſſibly replace her, and therefore not ſlightly to be given up. We had no other chance of recovering her, but by getting the perſon of the king into our poſſeſſion: on our attempting to do that, the natives became alarmed for his ſafety, and naturally oppoſed thoſe whom they deemed his enemies. In the ſudden conflict that enſued, we had the unſpeakable misfortune of loſing our excellent Commander, in the manner already related. It is in this light the affair has always appeared to me, as entirely accidental, and not in the leaſt owing to any previous offence received, or jealouſy of our ſecond viſit entertained by the natives.

Pareah ſeems to have been the principal inſtrument in bringing about this fatal diſaſter. We learnt afterwards, that it was he who had employed ſome people to ſteal the boat: the king did not ſeem to be privy to it, or even apprized of what had happened, till Captain Cook landed.

It was generally remarked, that at firſt, the Indians ſhewed great reſolution in facing our fire-arms; but it was entirely owing to ignorance of their effect. They thought that their thick mats would defend them from a ball, as well as from a ſtone; but being ſoon convinced of their error, yet ſtill at a loſs to account how ſuch execution was done among them, they had recourſe to a ſtratagem, which, though it anſwered no other purpoſe, ſerved to ſhew their ingenuity and quickneſs of invention. Obſerving the flaſhes of the muſkets, they naturally concluded, that water would counteract their effect, and therefore, very ſagaciouſly, dipped their mats, or armour in the ſea, juſt as they came on to face our people: but finding this laſt reſource to fail them, they ſoon diſperſed, and left the beach entirely clear. It was an object they never neglected, even at the greateſt hazard, to carry off their ſlain; a cuſtom, probably, owing to the barbarity with which they treat the dead body of an enemy, and the trophies they make of his bones *.

PARTICU-

* A remarkable inſtance of this I met with at Atowai. Tamataherei, the queen of that iſland, paid us a viſit one day on board the Diſcovery, accompanied by her huſband Taeoh, and one of her daughters by her former huſband Oteeha. The young princeſs, whoſe name was Ore,reemo,horanee, carried in her hand a very elegant fly-flap, of a curious conſtruction: the upper part of it was variegated with alternate rings of tortoiſe-ſhell and human bone, and the handle, which was well poliſhed, conſiſted of the greater part of the os humeri of a chief, called Mahowra. He had belonged to the

SOME

PARTICULARS,

CONCERNING THE

LIFE AND CHARACTER

OF

CAPTAIN COOK.

CAPTAIN COOK was born at Marton, in Cleaveland, in the county of York, a ſmall village, diſtant five miles ſouth-eaſt from Stockton. His name is found in the pariſh regiſter in the year 1729 (ſo that Captain King was miſtaken, in placing the time of his birth in the year 1727). The cottage in which his father formerly lived, is now decayed, but the ſpot where it ſtood is ſtill ſhewn to ſtrangers. A gentleman is now living in that neighbourhood, with whom the old man formerly worked as a common day-labourer in the fields. However, though

the neighbouring iſland of Oahoo, and, in a hoſtile deſcent he made upon this coaſt, had been killed by Oteeha, who was then ſovereign of Atowai. And thus we found Orereemohoranee carrying his bones about, as trophies of her father's victory. The queen ſet a great value upon it, and was not willing to part with it for any of our iron ware; but happening to caſt her eyes upon a waſh-hand baſon of mine, it ſtruck her fancy, and ſhe offered to exchange; I accepted of her propoſal, and the bones of the unfortunate Mahowra came at laſt into my poſſeſſion.

placed

placed in this humble ſtation, he gave his ſon a common ſchool education, and at an early age, placed him apprentice with one Mr. Saunderſon, a ſhopkeeper at Staith, (always pronounced Steers) a ſmall fiſhing-town on the Yorkſhire coaſt, about nine miles to the northward of Whitby. The buſineſs is now carried on by the ſon of Mr. Saunderſon, in the ſame ſhop, which I had the curioſity to viſit about a year and half ago. In that ſituation young Cook did not continue long, before he quitted it in diſguſt, and, as often happens in the like caſes, betook himſelf to the ſea. Whitby being a neighbouring ſea-port, readily offered him an opportunity to purſue his inclination; and there we find he bound himſelf apprentice, for nine years, in the coal trade, to one Mr. John Walker, now living in South Whitby. In his employ, he afterwards became mate of a ſhip; in which ſtation having continued ſome time, he had the offer of being maſter, which he refuſed, as it ſeems he had at that time turned his thoughts towards the navy. Accordingly, at the breaking out of the war in 1755, he entered on board the Eagle, of ſixty-four guns, and in a ſhort time after, Sir Hugh Palliſer was appointed to the command of that ſhip, a circumſtance that muſt not be paſſed unnoticed, as it proved the foundation of the future fame and fortune of Captain Cook. His uncommon merit did not long eſcape the obſervation of that diſcerning officer, who promoted him to the quarter-deck, and ever after patronized him with ſuch zeal and attention, as muſt reflect the higheſt honour upon his character. To Sir Hugh Palliſer is the world indebted, for having firſt noticed in an obſcure ſituation, and afterwards brought forward in life, the greateſt nautical genius

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made no inconſiderable progreſs, aſſiſted only by his own ingenuity and induſtry. At the time he thus found means to cultivate and improve his mind, and to ſupply the deficiency of an early education, he was conſtantly engaged in the moſt buſy and active ſcenes of the war in America. At the ſiege of Quebec, Sir Hugh Palliſer made him known to Sir Charles Saunders, who committed to his charge the conducting of the boats to the attack of mount Morenci, and the embarkation that ſcaled the heights of Abraham. He was alſo employed to examine the paſſage of the river St. Laurence, and to lay buoys for the direction of the men of war. In ſhort, in whatever related to the reduction of that place in the naval department, he had a principal ſhare, and conducted himſelf ſo well throughout the whole, as to recommend himſelf to the commander in chief. At the concluſion of the war, Sir Hugh Palliſer having the command on the Newfoundland ſtation, he appointed him to ſurvey that Iſland and the coaſt of Labradore, and gave him the Grenville brig for that purpoſe. How well he performed that ſervice, the charts he has publiſhed afford a ſufficient teſtimony. In that employment he continued till the year 1767, when the well known voyage to the South Sea, for obſerving the tranſit of Venus, and making diſcoveries in that vaſt ocean was planned. Lord Hawke, who then

placed in this humble ſtation, he gave his ſon a common ſchool education, and at an early age, placed him apprentice with one Mr. Saunderſon, a ſhopkeeper at Staith, (always pronounced Steers) a ſmall fiſhing-town on the Yorkſhire coaſt, about nine miles to the northward of Whitby. The buſineſs is now carried on by the ſon of Mr. Saunderſon, in the ſame ſhop, which I had the curioſity to viſit about a year and half ago. In that ſituation young Cook did not continue long, before he quitted it in diſguſt, and, as often happens in the like caſes, betook himſelf to the ſea. Whitby being a neighbouring ſea-port, readily offered him an opportunity to purſue his inclination; and there we find he bound himſelf apprentice, for nine years, in the coal trade, to one Mr. John Walker, now living in South Whitby. In his employ, he afterwards became mate of a ſhip; in which ſtation having continued ſome time, he had the offer of being maſter, which he refuſed, as it ſeems he had at that time turned his thoughts towards the navy. Accordingly, at the breaking out of the war in 1755, he entered on board the Eagle, of ſixty-four guns, and in a ſhort time after, Sir Hugh Palliſer was appointed to the command of that ſhip, a circumſtance that muſt not be paſſed unnoticed, as it proved the foundation of the future fame and fortune of Captain Cook. His uncommon merit did not long eſcape the obſervation of that diſcerning officer, who promoted him to the quarter-deck, and ever after patronized him with ſuch zeal and attention, as muſt reflect the higheſt honour upon his character. To Sir Hugh Palliſer is the world indebted, for having firſt noticed in an obſcure ſituation, and afterwards brought forward in life, the greateſt nautical genius

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that ever any age or country has produced. In the year 1758, we find him maſter of the Northumberland, then in America, under the command of Lord Colville. It was there, he has been heard to ſay, that during a hard winter he firſt read Euclid, and applied himſelf to the ſtudy of aſtronomy and the mathematics, in which he made no inconſiderable progreſs, aſſiſted only by his own ingenuity and induſtry. At the time he thus found means to cultivate and improve his mind, and to ſupply the deficiency of an early education, he was conſtantly engaged in the moſt buſy and active ſcenes of the war in America. At the ſiege of Quebec, Sir Hugh Palliſer made him known to Sir Charles Saunders, who committed to his charge the conducting of the boats to the attack of mount Morenci, and the embarkation that ſcaled the heights of Abraham. He was alſo employed to examine the paſſage of the river St. Laurence, and to lay buoys for the direction of the men of war. In ſhort, in whatever related to the reduction of that place in the naval department, he had a principal ſhare, and conducted himſelf ſo well throughout the whole, as to recommend himſelf to the commander in chief. At the concluſion of the war, Sir Hugh Palliſer having the command on the Newfoundland ſtation, he appointed him to ſurvey that Iſland and the coaſt of Labradore, and gave him the Grenville brig for that purpoſe. How well he performed that ſervice, the charts he has publiſhed afford a ſufficient teſtimony. In that employment he continued till the year 1767, when the well known voyage to the South Sea, for obſerving the tranſit of Venus, and making diſcoveries in that vaſt ocean was planned. Lord Hawke, who then

preſided at the Admiralty, was ſtrongly ſolicited to give the command of that expedition to Mr. Alexander Dalrymple; but through the intereſt of his friend Sir Hugh Palliſer, Captain Cook obtained the appointment, together with the rank of lieutenant. It was ſtipulated, that on his return, he ſhould, if he choſe it, again hold the place of ſurveyor of Newfoundland, and that his family ſhould be provided for, in caſe of any accident to himſelf.

He ſailed from England in the Endeavour, in the year 1768, accompanied by Mr. Banks and Dr. Solander, and returned in 1771; after having circumnavigated the globe, made ſeveral important diſcoveries in the South Sea, and explored the iſlands of New Zealand, and great part of the coaſt of New Holland. The ſkill and ability with which he conducted that expedition, ranked his name high as a navigator, and could not fail of recommending him to that great patron of naval merit, the Earl of Sandwich, who then preſided at the board of Admiralty. He was promoted to the rank of maſter and commander, and a ſhort time afterwards, appointed to conduct another expedition to the Pacific Ocean, in ſearch of the ſuppoſed ſouthern continent. In this ſecond voyage he circumnavigated the globe, determined the non-exiſtence of a ſouthern continent, and added many valuable diſcoveries to thoſe he had before made in the South Sea. His own account of it is before the public, and he is no leſs admired for the accuracy and extenſive knowledge which he has diſplayed in that work, than for his ſkill and intrepidity in conducting the expedition. On his return, he was promoted to the rank of poſt-captain, and appointed one of the captains of Greenwich hoſpital. In that Retire-

ment he did not continue long: for an active life beſt ſuiting his diſpoſition, he offered his ſervices to conduct a third expedition to the South Sea, which was then in agitation, in order to explore a northern paſſage from Europe to Aſia: in this he unfortuately loſt his life, but not till he had fully accompliſhed the object of the voyage.

The character of Captain Cook will be beſt exemplified by the ſervices he has performed, which are univerſally known, and have ranked his name above that of any navigator of ancient or of modern times. Nature had endowed him with a mind vigorous and comprehenſive, which in his riper years he had cultivated with care and induſtry. His general knowledge was extenſive and various: in that of his own profeſſion he was unequalled. With a clear judgment, ſtrong maſculine ſenſe, and the moſt determined reſolution; with a genius peculiarly turned for enterprize, he purſued his object with unſhaken perſeverance:—vigilant and active in an eminent degree:—cool and intrepid among dangers; patient and firm under difficulties and diſtreſs; fertile in expedients; great and original in all his deſigns; active and reſolved in carrying them into execution. Theſe qualities rendered him the animating ſpirit of the expedition: in every ſituation, he ſtood unrivalled and alone; on him all eyes were turned; he was our leading-ſtar, which at its ſetting, left us involved in darkneſs and deſpair.

His conſtitution was ſtrong, his mode of living temperate: why Captain King ſhould not ſuppoſe temperance as great a virtue in him as in any other man, I am unable to gueſs. He had no repugnance to good living; he always kept a good table, though he could bear the reverſe without murmuring. He was a modeſt man, and rather baſh-

ful; of an agreeable lively converſation, ſenſible and intelligent. In his temper he was ſomewhat haſty, but of a diſpoſition the moſt friendly, benevolent, and humane. His perſon was above ſix feet high, and though a good-looking man, he was plain both in addreſs and appearance. His head was ſmall, his hair, which was a dark brown, he wore tied behind. His face was full of expreſſion, his noſe exceedingly well-ſhaped, his eyes, which were ſmall and of a brown caſt, were quick and piercing: his eye-brows prominent, which gave his countenance altogether an air of auſterity.

He was beloved by his people, who looked up to him as to a father, and obeyed his commands with alacrity. The confidence we placed in him was unremitting; our admiration of his great talents unbounded; our eſteem for his good qualities affectionate and ſincere.

In exploring unknown countries, the dangers he had to encounter were various and uncommon. On ſuch occaſions, he always diſplayed great preſence of mind, and a ſteady perſeverance in purſuit of his object. The acquiſition he has made to our knowledge of the globe is immenſe, beſides improving the art of navigation, and enriching the ſcience of natural philoſophy.

He was remarkably diſtinguiſhed for the activity of his mind: it was that which enabled him to pay an unwearied attention to every object of the ſervice. The ſtrict œconomy he obſerved in the expenditure of the ſhip's ſtores, and the unremitting care he employed for the preſervation of the health of his people, were the cauſes that enabled him to proſecute diſcoveries in remote parts of the globe, for ſuch a length of time as had been deemed impracticable

ble by former navigators. The method he diſcovered for preſerving the health of ſeamen in long voyages, will tranſmit his name to poſterity as the friend and benefactor of mankind: the ſucceſs which attended it, afforded this truly great man more ſatisfaction, than the diſtinguiſhed fame that attended his diſcoveries.

England has been unanimous in her tribute of applauſe to his virtues, and all Europe has borne teſtimony to his merit. There is hardly a corner of the earth, however remote and ſavage, that will not long remember his benevolence and humanity. The grateful Indian, in time to come, pointing to the herds grazing his fertile plains, will relate to his children how the firſt ſtock of them was introduced into the country; and the name of Cook will be remembered among thoſe benign ſpirits, whom they worſhip as the ſource of every good, and the fountain of every bleſſing.

It may not be amiſs to obſerve, that the plate engraved by Sherwin, after a painting by Dance, is a moſt excellent likeneſs of Captain Cook; and more to be valued, as it is the only one I have ſeen that bears any reſemblance to him.

OBSERVATIONS,

RESPECTING THE

INTRODUCTION

OF THE

VENEREAL DISEASE

INTO THE

SANDWICH ISLANDS.

THIS publication affording a convenient opportunity, I embrace it, to offer a few remarks upon a ſubject in ſome degree affecting the reputation of the late voyages to the South Sea Iſlands. If we for a moment ſuppoſe, that they have been the means of diſſeminating the venereal diſeaſe among the inhabitants, the evil is of ſuch a magnitude, that we are induced to wiſh they had never been undertaken. For who would not ſooner remain ignorant of the intereſting diſcoveries which have been made, than bear the reflection of their having been attended with ſuch an irreparable injury to a happy and uncontaminated race of people!

It

It is a point of diſpute between Captain Wallis and Monſ. Bougainville, which of their ſhips it was, that introduced the diſeaſe to Otaheite. And we find, that Captain Cook was apprehenſive of his people having left it at the Friendly Iſlands. Without enquiring into the grounds of conviction they had in former voyages, I am ſtrongly inclined to believe, from my obſervations in the laſt, that it is a ſubject about which they are very liable to be deceived; and that what is laid down as poſitive fact, could be no more than matter of opinion.

In the laſt voyage, both Captains Cook and King were of opinion, that the inhabitants of Sandwich Iſlands received that diſtemper from our people. The great deference I pay to their judgment on every occaſion, will hardly allow me to diſſent from it in the preſent inſtance; and yet I muſt be allowed to ſay, that the ſame evidence which proved convincing to them in this caſe, did by no means appear ſo to me, and I will endeavour to aſſign my reaſons. When we firſt diſcovered Sandwich Iſlands, in the month of January, 1778, the ſhips anchored at two of them (viz. Atowai and Neehaw) where parties were ſent aſhore for water, and to purchaſe proviſions of the natives. On this occaſion, I muſt bear my teſtimony (for I was then in the Reſolution) to the very particular care taken by Captain Cook, to prevent any of his people who were not in perfect health, from having communication with the ſhore, and alſo to prevent women from coming on board the ſhips. That this humane precaution anſwered the intended purpoſe, we had great reaſon to believe; for not one of thoſe who did go on ſhore was

MUSEUM S.S.B. BRITANNICUM

afterwards in the ſurgeon's liſt, or known to have any complaint; which was the moſt convincing proof we could have, of their being well at the time. We therefore were under no apprehenſions on this head, when we viſited theſe iſlands a ſecond time, about eleven months from our firſt diſcovering them. We then fell in with two iſlands, (viz. Mowee and Ouwhyee) belonging to the group, which we had not ſeen before; and very ſoon found that the venereal diſeaſe was not unknown to the natives. This excited no little concern and aſtoniſhment among us, and made us anxious to learn whether or no, ſo dreadful a calamity had been left at Atowai by our ſhips, and ſo propagated to theſe iſlands. But the ſcanty knowledge we had of their language, made this a matter of great difficulty, and rendered the beſt intelligence we could get but vague and uncertain. While we were cruiſing off Ouwhyee, I was told, that ſome Indians had viſited the Reſolution with that complaint upon them, and that they ſeemed to intimate, that our ſhips had left it at Atowai; whence it had found its way to this iſland.

This account, I confeſs, appeared at once very improbable to me, and rendered me very deſirous of an opportunity to examine ſome of them myſelf: for I found the above ſtory gaining univerſal belief, and felt ſomewhat hurt, that we ſhould take to ourſelves the ignominy of ſuch an imputation, without ſufficient proof of its being juſt. During our ſtay at Keragegooah bay, where we had conſtant opportunities of directing our enquiries to the moſt intelligent of the natives, I met with none who could give me any information on the ſubject, nor could

I learn

I learn that they had the leaſt idea of our having left it at Atowai, or that it was a new thing amongſt them. This circumſtance, added to the very ſlight reliance, which experience had taught me to place in any intelligence obtained from the Indians, through the medium of their language, confirmed me in the opinion I had entertained from the firſt, that the meaning of thoſe Indians had been miſunderſtood on board the Reſolution. An inſtance happened ſoon afterwards which convinced me, that no credit whatſoever is to be given to ſuch information. We had not been long arrived at Atowai a ſecond time, before an Indian came on board the Diſcovery, who appeared to the gentleman who firſt ſpoke to him, clearly to charge us with having left the diſeaſe at that iſland, on our former viſit. As I was known to be an unbeliever, the man was at laſt referred to me; and, I confeſs, I was a little ſtaggered at firſt with the anſwers he gave me: but preſently, ſuſpecting from his manner, that he would anſwer every queſtion propoſed to him in the affirmative, I aſked him, if they did not receive the diſeaſe firſt from Oahoo; a neighbouring iſland, which we had not touched at, when we were in theſe parts before: the man directly anſwered, that they had; and ſtrenuouſly perſiſted in the ſame, every time the queſtion was put to him, either by myſelf, or the gentleman who had firſt examined him. Such contradictory accounts as theſe, prove nothing, but our ignorance of their language, and conſequently, how apt we are to be miſled in enquiries of this ſort. I never put any confidence in them myſelf, and have often been ſurprized to ſee others put ſo much. Yet thoſe who have maintained

maintained that we left the diſeaſe at Sandwich Iſlands, have no better foundation than this, to reſt their opinion upon. Whether it be ſufficient to ſupport ſuch an accuſation, I will leave others to judge, after what I have related above; and proceed to point out ſuch other circumſtances as tend to prove, that the diſeaſe was not left at theſe iſlands by our ſhips. From every thing we could learn, it appeared, that there is but little intercourſe between Atowai and the iſlands to windward, eſpecially Ouwhyee, which is about fifty leagues diſtant: and the neareſt to Atowai, which is Oahoo, is five and twenty leagues. There is generally ſome miſunderſtanding between them, and, excepting for hoſtile purpoſes, the inhabitants rarely viſit each other. But were we even to allow, that there is a frequent intercourſe between them, which from the diſtance alone is highly improbable, yet it is hardly poſſible, that the diſeaſe ſhould have ſpread ſo far, and ſo univerſally, as we found it at Ouwhyee, in the ſhort ſpace of time which intervened between our firſt and ſecond viſit to the Sandwich Iſlands. On the ſame ſuppoſition, it will appear very extraordinary, that we ſhould have found it more common by far at Ouwhyee than at Atowai, the place where we are ſuppoſed to have firſt left it. That this was the caſe, however, from my ſituation at that time, as ſurgeon of the Diſcovery, I am able to pronounce with ſome certainty. The prieſts pretended to be expert at curing it, and ſeemed to have an eſtabliſhed mode of treatment; which by no means implied, that it was a recent complaint among them, much leſs that it was introduced only a few months before.

Whence, or at what time, the inhabitants of theſe iſlands received diſeaſe, or whether or not it be indigenous among them, is what I do not pretend even to gueſs: but from the circumſtances above-mentioned, I think myſelf warranted in ſaying, that there are by no means ſufficient proofs of our having firſt introduced it; but that, on the contrary, there is every reaſon to believe, that they were afflicted with it before we diſcovered thoſe iſlands.

MUSEUM S.S.B. BRITANNICUM

THE END.